

# **NEWS RELEASE**

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) - 1300 MILITARY ROAD - LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Joint Information Center (JIC) August 16, 2011, 7 a.m. CDT CONTACT: Jodie Fawl

(402) 471-7428 jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov

**Nebraska JIC Daily Update** 

Flood Hotline: (855) 211-2453 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays

# **NEMA Continues to Monitor Flood Conditions**

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) remains activated in response to ongoing flooding issues across the state. NEMA is monitoring flood conditions along the Missouri and Platte rivers and providing assistance to local emergency management officials in the flood- and storm-affected counties on a 24-hour basis. **The NEMA Flood Hotline** is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at **(855) 211-2453**. Flood and storm damage reports can be submitted at: <a href="http://www.nema.ne.gov/newsroom/home-damage-contact.html">http://www.nema.ne.gov/newsroom/home-damage-contact.html</a>

#### Registration

Individual Assistance is available in: Boyd, Burt, Cass, Dakota, Dixon, Douglas, Knox, Sarpy and Washington Counties. There are several ways to register:

- Online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov.
- By smartphone through m.FEMA.gov, click on "Apply Online for FEMA Assistance."
- By phone, call toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362).
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- Those with a speech disability or hearing loss, who use a TTY, should call 800-462-7585;
  - or use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS) to call 800-621-3362.

Anyone with damage must register with FEMA in order to receive federal disaster assistance.

# What to expect after registering with FEMA

After registering for FEMA assistance, you can expect visits from a variety of authorized agents who perform an important step that will move your recovery process forward.

Depending on individual situations those visits may be from a FEMA-contracted inspector, local insurance adjuster and local building and code inspector.

The FEMA-contracted inspector will call to make an appointment to meet you at your damaged residence to verify your damages. It is important that you keep the appointment with the inspector. Inspectors may request to meet at an alternate location convenient to the homeowner if a residence is not yet accessible.

When you meet the inspector, ask to see the inspector's FEMA contractor photo-identification badge. Also, each person who registers with FEMA is provided a unique disaster registration number. The inspector will know that number and you may verify that number with the inspector.

If you reported to FEMA that your residence was damaged, the inspector is there to verify that damage. It's all part of the process to determine the amount and kind of assistance for which you are eligible.

The FEMA inspector determines whether the house is livable by checking the structure itself, including heating, plumbing, electrical, flooring, sheetrock, ceilings, roof and foundation.

Damage to major appliances such as washer, dryer, refrigerator and stove is assessed. Other serious needs are determined, such as clothing that was lost or damaged due to the disaster.

You will need some evidence that the property is your primary residence. This proof can include a recent utility bill, mortgage payment record or rent receipts.

<u>No Changes National Guard</u> -- Eight **Nebraska National Guardsmen** are supporting the Joint Operations Center, the State Emergency Operation Center as operations transition to local authorities.

### NO CHANGES Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) Recommended alternate routes:

To and from Kansas: use Highway 77 out of Lincoln and Highway 81 out of York.

Across Nebraska: I-80 is expected to remain safe and dry route throughout the flooding months.

**Strongly suggested route:** If you are west of York on I-80 and intend to travel north on I-29 at Council Bluffs, consider taking **Highway 81** north at York to I-90 in South Dakota thus avoiding detour traffic in Iowa.

**Avoid Highway 75** because of existing construction projects, lane closures and flood mitigation operations.

Avoid Highway 77 north of Lincoln because of delays due to bridge construction near Fremont.

## NO CHANGES Road Closures Call 511 or check online at www.roads.ne.gov/flood/ or www.511.nebraska.gov

**Highway 2** is closed from Nebraska City east into Iowa due to water covering the road on the Iowa side.

**Highway 12** is closed east of Niobrara from the east edge of Niobrara to the Santee Spur. A west section of **Highway 12** is also closed from Verdel to approximately three miles west of Niobrara.

**Highway 14/37** is closed from the junction with **Highway 12** to the Nebraska-South Dakota border (Standing Bear Bridge). **Highway 14** is open going south from the junction of **Highway 12**.

**Highway 175** at the Decatur Missouri River Crossing to Iowa is closed due to erosion of the bridge embankment on the Iowa side. Officials will evaluate the erosion and determine if work can be done to enable the bridge to reopen.

**Highway 136** is closed from Brownville east into Missouri due to water topping a levee on the Missouri side. **Highway 159** is closed from Rulo as it runs east into Missouri. Closure is due to levee break on the Missouri side of Big Lake which resulted in water over the road on the Missouri side.

**I-680** into Iowa is closed due to I-680 in Iowa being covered by flood waters.

<u>UPDATED River Levels</u> — The National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service lists four flood categories at <a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lbf/">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lbf/</a> From highest to lowest: those categories are: Major Flood Stage, Moderate Flood Stage, Flood Stage and Action Stage. Sites in Nebraska that are at Action Stage or above as of today according to the National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service are:

#### **North Platte River**

Henry, 5.14 feet – at Action Stage which is 4.5 feet, Flood stage is 5.5 feet Lewellen, 7.34 feet – at Action Stage which 6 feet, Flood Stage is 7.5 feet North Platte, 6.76 feet – at Flood Stage which is 6 feet

#### **Platte River**

Brady, 6.73 feet – at Action Stage which is 6 feet, Flood Stage I 7.5 feet

### **Missouri River**

Verdel, 28.05 feet – is at Major Flood Stage which is 26 feet Niobrara, 25.78 feet – is at Major Flood Stage which is 24 feet **South Sioux City, 33.02 feet –** is at Flood Stage which is 30 feet **Decatur, 38.9 feet –** is at Moderate Flood Stage which is 38 feet Blair, 30.23 feet - is at Moderate Flood Stage which is 28.5 Omaha, 33.98 feet – is at Moderate Flood Stage which is 32 feet **Plattsmouth, 33.08 feet –** is at Moderate Flood Stage which is 31 feet Nebraska City, 22.52 feet – is at Flood Stage which is 18 feet, Brownville, 37.85 feet – is at Moderate Flood Stage which is 37 feet Rulo, 23.38 feet – is at Moderate Flood Stage which is 21 feet



<u>List of Nebraska Local Health Departments</u>

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